

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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PASS AGRICULTURE

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, WFC, UN, OCON
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING IN MEXICO

REF: ROME 1180

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF THE LAST THREE PARAGRAPHS THIS TELEGRAM REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AS EXPRESSED BY HARRY WALTERS IN A MEETING WITH FODAG. AT OUTSET OF MEETING FODAG INDICATED ITS PURPOSE WAS TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE NEXT COUNCIL SEESION AND NOT TO EXPRESS UPPORT OR REJECTION OF ANY IDEAS EXPRESSED.
2. WALTERS OUTLINES IN SOME DETAIL WHAT SECRETARIAT WANTED OUT OF NEXT SESSION OF COUCIL. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, MAJOR ITEM OON AGENDA IS NO. 5. OTHERS ARE MAINLY INFORMATIONAL. SECRETARIAT FEELS LAST SESSION DEFINED ROLE OF WFC, THIS SESSION SHOULD DEVELOP ACTION PROGRAM.

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3. WFC SECRETARIAT IN POROCESS OF PREPARING NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION WHICH WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, THEY WILL PROVIDE SUMMARY OF MAJOR ITEMS ON AGENDA BY 3 FEBRUARY. SUMMARY WILL HAVE MAIN POINTS SECRETARIAT WILL PUT FORWARD.
4. SECRETARIAT WILL USE THIS SUMMARY AS BASIS FOR TALKS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES PRIOR TO APRIL 1 WHEN DOCUMENTS RELEASED.

AFTER THAT DATE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE BASED ON DOCUMENTS. THEY HOPE THIS WAY TO NARROW DIFFERENCES SO PREPARATORY MEETING CAN DEVELOP DRAFT SHORT COMMUNIQUE FOR MINISTERIAL SESSION TO FINALIZE. ALSO THESE TALKS WILL HELP SECRETARIAT TO "FINALIZE" THE DOCUMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEETING. WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND HARRY WALTERS TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO VISIT WASHINGTON AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND END OF MARCH.

5. WHILE SECRETARIAT HAS NOT DECIDED HOW IT WILL PRESENT ITS IDEA FOR AGENDA ITEM 5, EITHER IN ONE DOCUMENT OR OVERALL DOCUMENT WITH ONE OR THWO SEPARATE SECTIONS, ITS APPROACH COULD BE DESCRIBED AS BASICALLY ON TWO LEVELS: ONE MULTI-LATERAL WHICH WOULD COVER RESERVES, FOOD AID, INPUTS AND MAYBE TRADE. THE OTHER IS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR COUNTRY LEVEL APPROACHES AIMED AT DEVELOPING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IN COUNTRIES AND RELATES NUTRITION, RESOURCES, INPUTS, FOOD AID AND POLICY QUESTIONS TO THIS EFFORT.

6. WALTERS OUTLINE THE COUNTRY LEVEL APPROACHES AS FOLLOWS:
(A) A PLAN TO INCREASE PRODUCTION MORE RAPIDLY TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE PACKAGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INPUTS TO SUPPORT SUCH PROGRAMGS AND TO INITIATE EFFECTIVE NUTRITION PLANNING AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE THE FOOD PROBLEM IS MOST SEVERE.
(B) CONCEPTUALLY WALTERS DESCRIBED THE PLAN AS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN POSITION OF : (1) DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO SAY THAT THEY ARE PRESENTLY PROVIDING AID AT A LEVEL THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN REASONABLE ABSORB AND THAT ADDITION AID WITHOUT CERTAIN POLICY CHANGES COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED AND (2) THE DEVELOP-
INT COUNTRIEWS WHO ARGUE THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND IF PROVIDED THE ADDITION RESOURCES THEY COULD UTILIZE THE AID EFFEC-
TIVELY.

(C) WALTERS ARGUES THAT THROUGH THIS PLAN THE DEVELOP-
ING COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO INCREASE THEIR INPUTS INTO AGRI-
CULTURE. IN ADDITION THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD IN
MANY INSTANCES BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE CERTAIN OF THEIR AGRI-
CULTURAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

(D) AT THE OUTSET THIS APPROACH WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE
FOUR COUNTRIES (BANGLADESH, HONDURAS, SENEGAL, AND SUDAN)
WHICH PRESENTED FOOD AND NUTRITION PLANS TO THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE CGFPI. OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE ADDED IN SUB-
SEQUENT YEARS WHEN THEY DEVELOPED THE BASIC FOOD AND NUTRITION
PLANS. HOWEVER,NUMBER WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO ABOUT
FOUR A YEAR BEACUSE OF THE YPE OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED.

(E) BASICALLY THE PLAN CALLS FOR EACH COUNTRY TO BE
PROVIDED A HIGH LEVEL CONSULTANT OF ITS CHOICE. THIS

PERSON WOULD WORK FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY TO ASSIST
THEIR HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORS TO DEVELOP THE MOST EFFECTIVE
PROPOSALS POSSIBLE AND THE SECURE SUPPORT THEN FROM INTER-
NATIONAL AGENCIES AND DONOR GOVERNMENTS.

(F) HIGH-LEVEL ADVISOR SUPPORT WOULD BE NEEDED FROM
THREE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES (FAO, WORLD BANK, AND
UNDP) AND MAJOR DONOR COUNTRIES TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY'S
CONSULTANT AND ADVISOR AS NEEDED.

(G) THE CONSULTANT WOULD ACT AS A MEDIATOR BETWEEN
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
AND DONOR COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN FROM EACH THE NECESSARY
COMMITMENTS AND COMPROMISES TO ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN RAPID
FOOD PRODUCTION INCREASES AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENTS.

(H) THE GROUP OF ADVISORS WITH THE CONSULTANT WOULD DEVELOP AND IDENT
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IFY FOR EACH COUNTRY:

- (1) PROGRAMS WHICH COULD IMPLEMENTED QUICKLY.
- (2) PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ADDITION
PREPARATION BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN.
- (3) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT COULD NOT BE ACTED
UPON AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF POLICY OR OTHER ISSUES NEEDED TO
BE RESOLVED.
- (4) FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND ELABORATION OF THE FOOD
PLAN IF APPROPRIATE.
- (I) AGREED UPON PROPOSALS FOR ALL FOUR STAGES MENTIONED
ABOVE WOULD INCLUDE AGREEMENT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND
POLICY COMMITMENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF AID AND TECHNICAL
COMPONENTS REQUIRED.

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7. CONCERNING MULTILATERAL APPROACH, SECRETARIAT PAPER WOULD BE A REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "MANILA COMMUNIQUE" OF WFC. IN PARTICULAR RESERVES, FOOD AID, INPUTS, AND POSSIBLY TRADE.

8. "RESERVES" PAPER WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE LIKELY UNTIL END OF 1978 AND THAT SESSION SHOULD NOT DISRUPT THE NEGOTIATIONS. PAPER WOULD INDICATE, HOWEVER, SOME ELEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE IN THE FINAL AGREEMENT, SUCH AS:

(A) SIZE--AT LEAST 20 MILLION METRIC TONS IF IT ONLY INCLUDES FOOD GRAIN; AT LEAST 40 MILLION METRIC TONS IF IT INCLUDES FEED GRAINS.

(B) PRIORITY ACCESS TO RESERVES FOR SELECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT THE FIRST STAGE PRICE BREAK.

(C) AID TO DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY IN SELECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCLUDING GRAIN SUPPLIER AND ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING STORAGE FACILITIES.

(D) APPROVAL OF FOOD AID CONVENTION OF ABOUT 10 MILLION METRIC TONS.

9. PAPER WILL ALSO NOTE THAT IF NO RESERVES AGREEMENT IS REACHED BY THE END OF 1978 THEN THE WFC SHOULD CONSIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE QUESTION OF A GRAIN RESERVE ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE FOR THE '79 SESSION. ALSO PAPER WILL NOTE THAT IF THERE IS ANY REAL DETERIORATION IN THE GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION, THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR A SPECIAL RESERVE OF 5 OR 10 MILLION METRIC TONS UNTIL AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

10. CONCERNING FOOD AID, PAPER WILL:

(A) STATE THAT FOOD AID CONVENTION SHOULD CONTAIN MINIMUM 10 MILLION TONS;

(B) DISCUSS HOW FOOD AID SHOULD BE SUED WITH REGARD TO OVERALL FOOD SECURITY, DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AID TO PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; NUTRITION, ETC.

(C) RECOMMEND THAT THERE FOOD AID ISSUES SHOULD BE STUDIED SERIOUSLY BY CFA. WFC SECRETARIAT PREPARED TO WORK FOR SUPPORT HIGHER FAO COMMITMENT BY LESS FORTHCOMING TRANSITIONAL DONORS AND NEW ONES.

11. NUTRITION PAPER WILL DEAL WITH THE NEED FOR A BROAD-BASED BUT CONCRETE PROPOSAL BOTH AT THE COUNTRY AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCY LEVELS THIS WILL FOLLOW FROM ACC SUB-

COMMITTEE ACTIONS PLUS CLEARER INDICATION OF OTHER INPUTS
NEEDED FROM COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES.

12. INPUTS PAPER WILL INDICATE: (A) THAT LDC MUST DEVELOP
OUTLOOK OF NEEDS FOR INPUTS IN RELATION OUTPUT; (B) NEED
TO DEVELOP HOW PRIORITY COUNTRIES MIGHT LINK UP WITH
INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SUCH AS FAO TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE.

13. WHETHER TRADE WILL BE INCLUDED IN WFC SECRETARIAT PAPER
IS UP IN THE AIR; IT DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF TALKS BETWEEN
WFC, GATT, AND UNCTAD AND IF SOME PROPOSAL CAN BE PUT
TOGETHER. IT LOOKS DOUBTFUL.

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14. WFC EXPECTS PUT MAJOR EFFORT INTO DISCUSSIONS AND
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN 15 FEBRUARY AND END MAY TO BE ABLE TO
HAVE REFINED A FORCEFUL AGREEMENT BY PREPARATORY MEETING.

15. FODAG CAUTIONS THAT THE ABOVE OUTLINE IS TENTATIVE
AND THAT WE EXPECT SUMMARIES TO BE AVAILABLE BY FEBRUARY
3. THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.

16. COMMENT: FODAG NOTES THAT WALTERS TENDS TO BE OVER
OPTIMISTIC AS TO WHAT CAN ACTUALLY BE ACCOMPLISHED. FURTHER,
IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH SUPPORT WALTERS HAS WITHIN THE
SECRETARIAT, THE BUREAU OF THE WFC, OR OTHR INTERNATIONAL
AGENCIES WITH REGARD TO THE IDEAS EXPRESSED ABOVE.
IN A VERY BRIEF MEETING WITH HANNAH OF THE WFC, FODAG
HAD IMPRESSION THAT HIS COMMITMENT TO WALTERS' IDEAS ON HIGH-
LEVEL ADVISORS FOR COUNTRY PLANS LESS THAN CELARE FODAG
UNDERSTANDS HANNAH WILL BE IN U.S. BETWEEN FEB. 1-8 AND IN WASHINGTON
FEB. 7 ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.

17. ON TUESDAY, JAN 31 THERE WILL BE MEETING OF ROME
PERMREPS TO WFC TO REVIEW AGENDA, PREPARATIONS TO DATE, AND
TO OUTLINE THE IDEAS EXPRESSED ABOVE BY WALTERS.
ANY VIEWS OR SUGGESTIONS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE SHOULD BE RE-
CEIVED BY JANUARY 31. GARDNER

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